Howland Wood - Curatorial

Massachusetts Historical Society

[Boston, MA]

1917-1927

June 22nd, 1917.

Mr. Worthington C. Ford,
Massachusetts Historical Society,
Fenway, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Your favor of June 19th evidently crossed our letter of about the same time. We have given the order to the Art Metal Construction Company to make six and a half cases for us and two for you. I think it was our understanding that we were to have a sample case made for ourselves to test and try out any faults, &c. before giving the order definitely to go ahead with the balance of our cases and your cases. If, however, you do not care to wait for the sample case to be made first, let us know and we will request the Art Metal people to begin construction on yours now. Although they state it will take about three months to manufacture these, we can not get any guarantee from them as far as time, and we are not over sanguine on account of the war, &c. if they can not make prompt deliveries.

We note that you do not care for any ends or fillers. In case you do not appreciate just the construction of these cases, I will state that the ends of the cases as they are now are constructed to fit up close to one and other, and consequently these ends are not finished sufficiently to be looked at, as the rivets which fasten the runners for the trays to slide on will show through. Where one of these ends could be against the wall, or if you plannto have the two side by side it is not necessary to have end pieces for these, but if any end is in sight we would advise you to have a detachable end.

We have also requested the construction people to make some tests concerning the glue or material they are going to use in fastening the felt into the drawers, as it should be without smell or properties that would tarnish or injure the coins in any way.

Under separate cover we are sending you samples of the coin boxes we use here. Besides these we have some larger ones increasing by half an inch. Also we have some odd shaped boxes for badges, odd shaped coins, &c. We have had these made by various concerns, and the prices generally range between $14.00 and $16.00 per thousand, provided an order of several thousand is given at one time. We are having some made of the three smaller sizes by F. Rudnick, 53 West 14th Street, who has guaranteed to make them at $10.00. They have not been delivered to us yet so we can not tell just how they will look. As these boxes bulk up quite large, we think that the freight charges might be rather high, and would advise you to try some of your local paper box manufacturers.

We remain,

Yours very truly,

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FENWAY BOSTON

June 23, 1917.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your letter of June 22. Our former notes must have crossed one another, and I did not repeat the order believing that it had reached the proper hands in time. The Society is in no haste about receiving the cases. I would much prefer to wait until your sample case has tried out the possibilities and defects, and I am entirely willing to wait until after the cases for the Numismatic Society have been finished.

As to the ends, the two cases fit into a small room so that no sides will be visible to the visitor. Under these circumstances I thought it better to omit the side pieces. Some day we will have a regular coin room, and the question of finish can then be settled quite as well as now. I understand that these metal sides are not unlike those used on correspondence cases, differing only in the measurement. We prefer, therefore, to wait until our permanent location of the coin collection can be determined, and that cannot be until we have secured the extension of our present building.

I am very glad to know of your tests on glue which will be used in fastening the felt into the drawers. I again experience the advantage of going direct to the expert for the best solution of the problems here. Thank you for the boxes for containing coins. I will see what can be done here, and govern myself accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Worthington C. Ford

December 4th, 1917.

Mr. Worthington C. Ford,
Massacusetts Historical Society,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

About a week ago we got from the Art Metal Construction Company our sample coin case, and we have been experimenting with it ever since. In the course of a week or so we will put in our final order. From what tests we have given it, we feel the case will be satisfactory. There are a few minor changes and improvements that should not effect the price, and we will have made in the balance of the cases, namely, a trifle heavier weight drawer, which they originally figured on, and which we had lightened, and one or two other small changes in the drawer. If possible we would like to have you see our case before we put in the final order including yours, as we really want you to see what you are getting.

Yours very truly,

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FENWAY BOSTON

December 21, 1917.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

On reporting my visit to Dr. Storer and describing what I had seen, he agrees with me that it would be just as well to omit the felting in the coin cabinets. If it is not too late to make the change, will you kindly direct that the cases be sent to us in just the same condition as they are sent to you? And in view of this reduction in cost, we think it would be as well to have two side pieces. We feel that this is making provision for some twenty years to come on side pieces; but twenty years from now we will not have the pleasure of listening to the criticisms that are made on our parsimony and penuriousness in not having provided for the side appearances of the case in a new building, for which plans are to be prepared in, say, 1950!

Sincerely yours,

Worthington C. Ford

I have not had an opportunity to ask. Mr about the Kittredge coins.

January 3rd, 1918.

Mr. Worthington C. Ford,
Massachusetts Historical Society,
Fenway, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

Your favor of December 21st at hand, and we have given the balance of our order to the Art Metal Construction Company. I have changed your order so that your two cases will come without linings and be furnished with one pair of ends. I also instructed them to write you to see whether it was advisable to ship the cases set up or knocked down. This would be governed by the width of your doorway leading up to where you want the cases installed. These cases measure 43 wide, 25 deep by 80 high. I also requested them to advise you when they would ship the cases.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FENWAY BOSTON

January 4, 1918.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
156th Street west of Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your letter of January 3d and for the change in the direction for the two cases. I have written to the Art Metal Company giving the measurements. Fortunately we have very wide doorways and a good stairway, so that the cases may come up as they are.

Sincerely yours,

Worthington C. Ford

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FENWAY BOSTON

April 24, 1918.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

The two coin cases, with the exception of the side-pieces have been received; the side pieces are on their way. Dr. Storer and myself are entirely satisfied with the result--in fact more than satisfied. The cases are neat, compact, and handsome in appearance with the slides open, easily managed, and give us the idea of room for growth. Once more I express our indebtedness to you and your Society for the privilege of sharing in this well-considered and efficient manner of keeping coins. Dr. Storer hopes that we will grow so rapidly that two more cases will be needed. I have my doubts as to this for the present, but when you again order we may be in a position to increase the number and thus secure some advantage. Pray bear this in mind as you grow.

Sincerely yours,

Worthington C. Ford

$730.92 as per bill of May 7, 1918
Steel Cases for Mass Historical
Society.

PLEASE RECEIPT AND RETURN TO

ARTHUR LORD, TREASURER

70 STATE STREET, BOSTON

May 7th, 1928.

Massachusetts Historical Society,
Boston, Massachusetts.

To Special Desks as per contract -	$1029.40	
Two Pairs of Irons - - - - - -	18.92	$1048.32
Credit for omission of felt linings as per letter instructions - - - - - -		317.40
		$ 730.92

Received payment,

Treasurer.

May 7th, 1918.

Massachusetts Historical Society,
Boston,
Massachusetts.

Dear Sirs:-

We have received from the Art Metal Construction Company a bill for the various contracts relating to the cases we had built for ourselves and for you. As these contracts were in our name they have billed the entire lot to us, evidently looking towards us for payment. I have figured the two proportions out and as they agree with the figures submitted to you at the time, I trust you will find they are O. K. If agreeable I wish you would send us a cheque so we can close up the matter with the Art Metal Construction Company.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FENWAY BOSTON

February 3, 1923.

Mr. Howland Wood,

American Numismatic Society,

156th Street, West of Broadway, New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood,

I am putting the finishing touches on the Index of the Coin Book, and am very much puzzled to learn the full names of the makers of many of the pieces. Doctor Storer, having prepared the list and perhaps wearing of the delay, has gone abroad, to be gone until April, and I cannot wait for his return. I am, therefore, sending you a list of the names which I wish, in the hope that your office will be able to give the necessary information. While I am in no hurry, I should like it within three weeks. Your courtesy will be greatly appreciated by the Society, and particularly by myself, for I appreciate how much I am asking of you.

The new volume is to be quite liberally illustrated. Would you care for a set of the illustrations apart from the book for reference purposes?

Sincerely yours,

Worthington C. Ford

February 15th, 1923

Mr. Worthington C. Ford
Massachusetts Historical Society
Fenway, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Ford:

I have completed some of the names for you on the enclosed list, but cannot guarantee in all cases that they are the people intended. There are a number of names of which we have never heard, nor can we find them anywhere; I think in one or two instances they may be wrongly spelt.

I am planning to run up to Boston next week, and if I get a chance will come round to see you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Enc.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FENWAY BOSTON

March 3, 1924.

Mr. Howland Wood,

Numismatic Society,

156th Street west of Broadway,

New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am sending a copy of Mr. Sargent's notice of the volume on the Numismatics of Massachusetts. I thought you would be interested in knowing how the work has been received in this community. Dr. Storer is out of the country at present and I feared that it would be overlooked were it postponed.

Sincerely yours,

Worthington C. Ford

March 8th, 1924

Mr. Worthington C. Ford
Massachusetts Historical Society
Fenway, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Many thanks for sending me Mr. Sargent's notice on Numismatics of Massachusetts. I was glad to have it and appreciate your thought of me.

Very truly yours,

Curator

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FENWAY BOSTON

February 12, 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Does your collection possess a good example of the silver pistareen which was current in the West Indies in the eighteenth century? If it does, would it be possible for me to obtain photographs of both sides? Naturally I look first to your collection for such an out-of-the-way piece.

Sincerely yours,

Worthington C. Ford

February 14, 1927

Mr. Worthington C. Ford,
Massachusetts Historical Society,
Fenway, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

The next time we have more photography done, which I hope will be this week. I will have made for you obverse and reverse of the Pistareen that was current in this country in the early days.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

April 6, 1927

Mr. Julius H. Tuttle, Librarian,
Massachusetts Historical Society,
1154 Boylston Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I understand that you have the Henry Knox manuscripts. Is it possible for me to look through these, especially for the years 1789 to 1795? I am anxious to gather material concerning Indian Peace Medals between those dates.

I am planning to go to Boston about the 18th or 19th of this month. Will your Society be open on the 19th?

I remain

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB